



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/502,109	10/29/2004	Cheng C. Ko		3411
7590	01/07/2005		EXAMINER	
John M. Card Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione PO Box 10395 Chicago, IL 60610				ECKERT II, GEORGE C
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2815	

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/502,109	
Examiner	KO ET AL.	
George C. Eckert II	Art Unit 2815	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) 17-19 is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 8,9 and 16 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/24/04 8/26/04

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-3, 7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,887,134 to Saito et al. Regarding claims 1 and 10 Saito teaches, with reference to figures 4 and 5, a photodiode and method comprising:

a substrate 401;

a first p-type semiconductor layer 405 deposited on the substrate;

an n-type semiconductor layer 402/403 deposited on the substrate;

a second p-type layer 404 disposed between the first p-type layer and the n-type layer such that the second p-type layer is directly adjacent to the n-type layer (as seen in fig. 4, layer 404 is directly adjacent the n-type layer 403), the second p-type layer having a graded doping concentration (see fig. 5a showing region 505 with a graded dopant concentration and see col. 8, lines 6-24 teaching the method of grading the dopant concentration).

Regarding claims 2, 3, 11 and 12, Saito teaches anode 407 and cathode 406 affixed to the device to collect holes and electrons respectively. Regarding claim 7, Saito teaches in figure 5 that the concentration of the graded layer is highest near the first p-type layer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 4-6 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito. Saito taught the device and method of claims 1 and 10 respectively but did not teach the specific materials instantly claimed (InAlAs and InGaAs). However, Saito did teach that it was known in the art to use III-V heterojunctions as photodiode materials (col. 1, lines 29-35). Furthermore, InAlAs and InGaAs are well known in the art and commonly used in photodiode devices. As such, it is considered obvious to use the instantly claimed materials as they are merely a substitution in kind.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 17-19 are allowed. Claims 8, 9 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach or suggest a photodiode device or method of making such a device in which a second p-type layer, disposed between a first p-type layer and an n-type layer, has a graded concentration governed by the claimed equation, in addition to the remaining claimed structural elements or method steps.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Uddin et al is cited as teaching a device and method having a graded p-type region between a p-type and n-type regions (figs 1 and 2, col. 4, lines 54-59).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Eckert II whose telephone number is (571) 272-1728.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



GEORGE ECKERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER